## Contents

### I. The Mockingbird Blues

- My Translation 3
- The Mockingbird on the Buddha 5
- The History of Apples, Part One 6
- Idolatry 8
- O Deceitful Tongue 10
- The Mockingbird Counts to Ten 11
- The Mockingbird Falls in Love 13
- Run 14
- Vex Me 16
- The Mockingbird Invents Writing 17
- Fang 19
- Thus Spake the Mockingbird 20

### II. 13 Ways of Looking at Paris

- Babel 23
- Cinerama 25
- Ode to the Potato 27
- Left Bank Freudian Striptease 28
- Calling the Friends of Friends 30
- Six, Sex, Say 34
- Flesh, Bone, and Red 36
- Shh 38
- 13th Arrondissement Blues 40
Attention, Citizen Sade  42
Ode to American English  44
Brain Radio Harangue  46
The Tawdry Masks of Women  48

III. American Odes
Ode to Hardware Stores  53
Ode to Barbecue  55
Ode on Satan’s Power  57
Ode on My Waist  60
Ode on My Sharp Tongue  61
Ode to W. E. Diemer, the Inventor of Bubblegum  64
Ode to Rock ’n’ Roll  67
Ode to My 1977 Toyota  69
Ode on My Mother’s Handwriting  70
Ode to the Bride of Frankenstein  72

Notes  77
Acknowledgments  78